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Ace of Diamond

中学全国大会を目標としていた沢村栄純(さわむらえいじゅん)。
最後の大会は自らの暴投で敗退してしまう。
仲間とともに高校でリベンジを誓うなか、
名門、青道高校野球部からスカウトが来る。
見学に訪れた沢村は、いきなりエリート校の洗礼を受けることに！
名キャッチャーの呼び声高い御幸(みゆき)との出[illegible]
沢村の高校野球への情熱を目覚めさせる！

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寺嶋裕二
てらじまゆうじ
ダイヤのA
エース

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●掲載／週刊少年マガジン2006年第24号～第28号

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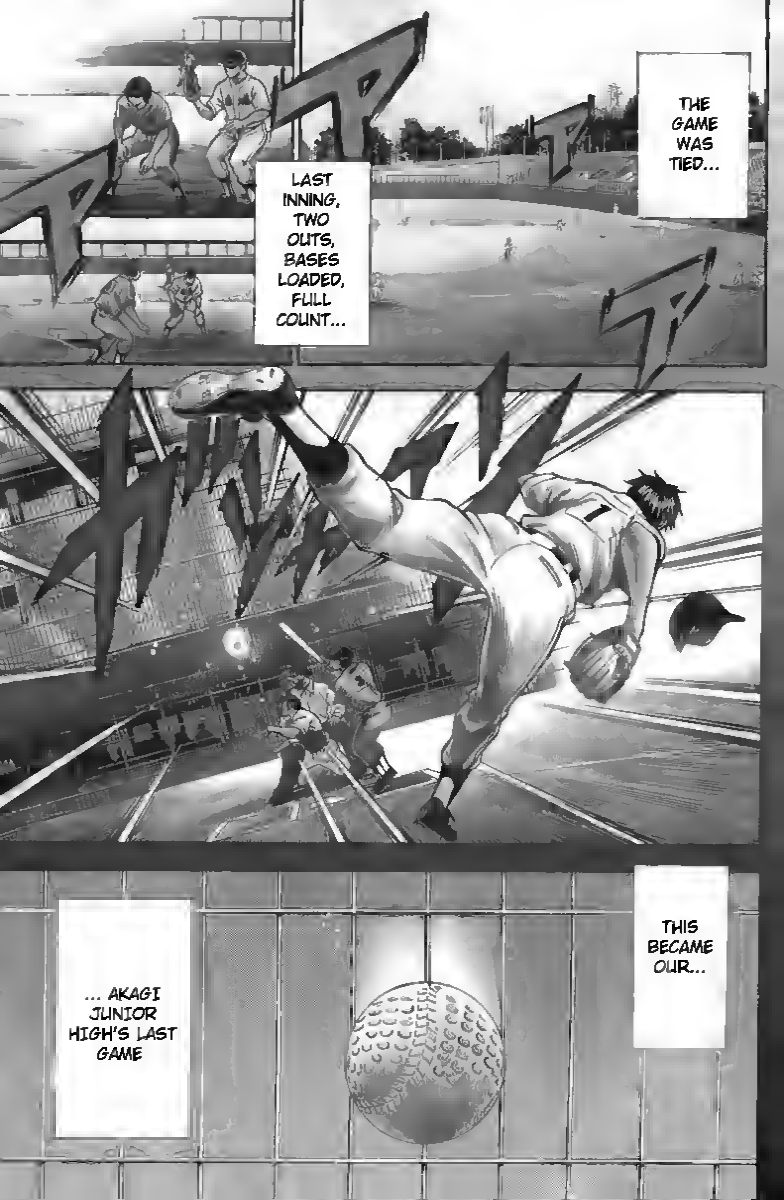
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは一切関係ありません。


THE GAME WAS TIED...
LAST INNING, TWO OUTS, BASES LOADED, FULL COUNT...
THIS BECAME OUR...
... AKAGI JUNIOR HIGH'S LAST GAME

第1話／運命の一球
A Fateful Ball

道

Ace of the Diamond

TEAMS, BOW!
A LAST-MINUTE VICTORY BY NARUSHIMA JUNIOR HIGH!
GAME SET!
HEY, EIJUN...
...EI-
COME ON, LINE UP AND BOW!
HEY, YOU. THE GAME'S ALREADY OVER.

SNIFF
SNIFF
城
SNIFF

"CHOKE"
SOB
E-
EI...
...
EIJUN...
S-
SORRY
...
I...
I COULDN'T
TAKE YOU
GUYS TO THE
NATIONALS...

AHA HA-HA!
WHO'S GOING TO THE NA-TIONALS WITH A LITTLE HICK SCHOOL?!
AHAHAHA!
WHAT'S THIS GUY SAYING!?
IS HE SERI-OUS?!
I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST IN IT FOR THE MEMORIES!
THE ONE BEING ABSORBED INTO AKAGI WEST?
AKAGI JUNIOR IS THAT ONE, YEAH?
WE'D NEVER LOSE TO SUCH A GIRLY TEAM!
LEARN YOUR PLACE!

HEY!!
YOU... WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
LOOKING FOR REVENGE BECAUSE YOU LOST?!
!!
!!
!!
!!

NO!
THIS IS THE SOUL OF AKAGI JUNIOR HIGH!
UH-
JU-HANG ON!
THE DREAM WE COULDN'T REACH, I'M GONNA GIVE IT TO YOU...
HUH?
ONE MORE!
WHOA!
TAKE OUR SPIRIT!
ALL RIGHT!
SLAP

WHOA!!
WHAT'S THIS GUY DOING?!
うおっ
EI, STOP IT AL-READY...
IS HE SERI-OUSLY GOING TO SLAP ALL OF US?!
HEY... AREN'T YOU GOING TO STOP?!
YOU-!
クス
INCLUDING THE FRIENDLY FIRE THAT HIT THE UMPIRE, THE TOTAL CAME TO 12 SLAPS...
THAT'S THE RECORD THEY SAY HE LEFT THIS DAY.

AKAGI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
赤城中学校
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
YOU IDIOT!
ちら～
THE COACH'S ANGER WAS ONLY NATURAL...
I'M OVER 40 AND I'M GETTING YELLED AT...
GETTING TOLD OFF BY THEIR COACH AND GLARED AT BY THE PLAYERS!!
MAKING THAT KIND OF DISTURBANCE IN FRONT OF FAMILY AND EVERYONE ELSE...

I'M REALLY ASHAMED, LOSING TO THAT KIND OF TEAM...
Sawamura Eijun (15)
OH... THAT'S EMBARRASSING!
YES, THAT!!
OH... THAT?
THE PROBLEM IS THE SLAPS AFTER THE GAME!
IT'S NOT ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING THE GAME!

AFTER THIS... WHAT KIND OF HIGH SCHOOL IS GOING TO TAKE YOU?
YOU UNDERSTAND?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE PULLED THE TEAM UP AS THE CAPTAIN,
NO WORRIES.

IF YOU'VE GOT A BAT AND A BALL, YOU CAN PLAY BASEBALL.

はっはっはっ
H-HEY!
HANG ON, I'M STILL TALKING...
SO, I'LL REFLECT ON IT! EXCUSE ME!
NO... BUT... YOU...
THIS LATE...
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE DONE UP TILL NOW!

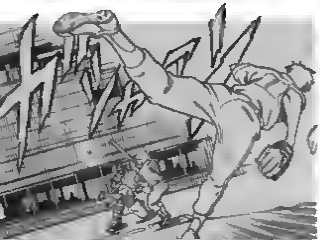
YOU NOISY LITTLE BRAT!
HEH, HEH, HEH...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE WORRYING ABOUT YOUR HAIR AND GETTING A NEW JOB?
HEH, BUT RATHER THAN ME...
!
GOD, THAT BRAT...
SAYING THINGS THAT PEOPLE USU-ALLY—
NOW, NOW... CALM DOWN, MR. SANO.
YEAH, BUT...
HEH
YOU'RE SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVE A FULL HEAD OF HAIR!
EVEN HIS TEAMMATES THOUGHT HE WAS STUPID THIS TIME...
SO GO EASY ON HIM.

"THEY'RE CLOSING THE SCHOOL, SO I WANT TO TAKE THE SCHOOL'S NAME TO THE NATIONALS..."
RIGHT?
PRACTICING LATE EVERY DAY WHILE SAYING THAT...
I'M REALLY PROUD OF THAT KID...

THOSE GUYS ENDED UP GOBBLING UP ALL OF MY SALARY AND VACATION TIME...
部員ちょーだい♡
WE'RE GOING TO A PRACTICE GAME, SO GET A BUS.
IF WE WIN, TREAT US TO YAKINIKU...

HM...

HEH, HEH, HEH!
I'M NOT CRYING!
AND WHO'RE YOU CALLING LIL SANO?!
AH? LIL SANO? YOU'RE CRYING?
IF I THINK ABOUT IT, I CAN RELAX AND NOT BE ABUSED BY THOSE GUYS WHEN THEY GRADUATE... HEH.



EI!!
HE FINALLY LET YOU GO?
NICE WORK!
TCH...
IN THE END, WE COULDN'T EVEN WIN ONE GAME
AHAHA! EVEN THOUGH HE WAS TOTALLY PALE AT THE GAME?
HOW WAS IT?
WAS LIL SANO PISSED?
HE WAS COMPLETELY RED, LIKE A BOILED OCTOPUS!
HE'S STUBBORN, SO I RAN!
AHA HA!!

HE SAID NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL, THEY CAN'T RECOMMEND ME!
AH, YEAH... IT'S TRUE!
SO... IS IT TRUE?
I HEARD YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE ALL BEEN SWEPT AWAY...
MAN, THE SLAPPING THING SPREAD AROUND...
SERIOUSLY, EI!?
DON'T MAKE THOSE KINDS OF WORRIED FACES!
HAHAHA! WHAT'S THAT, YOU GUYS?!
MAKING A FUSS WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE CONSEQUENCES...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, IDIOT?
EH?
I WAS NEVER REALLY INTERESTED IN RECOMMENDATIONS AND ALL TO BEGIN WITH!
I DECIDED TO GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS YOU GUYS, YEAH?
... HEHE, THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.

I'LL TAKE REVENGE WITH EVERYONE FOR THE DREAM WE COULDN'T ACHIEVE IN JUNIOR HIGH!
THIS SCHOOL MAY BE GETTING ABSORBED, BUT...
WE'LL STICK TOGETHER TILL THE END AND AKAGI JUNIOR'S SOUL WILL NEVER DIS-APPEAR!

YEAH?!

EI...
.....

WHERE IS THIS CONFIDENCE COMING FROM?
だっ

はっはっはっ

YEAH!! WAIT FOR US, KOUSHIEN!!
BECAUSE WE'RE ON OUR WAY!!

SO... WITHOUT A RECOMMENDATION, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET INTO A SCHOOL?
MIYOSHI HIGH'S ACADEMIC AVERAGE IS SURPRISINGLY HIGH!!
コロッ
YEAH, YOUR GRADES ARE YOUR BIGGEST PROBLEM...
WHAT!? WHEN HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN STUDYING?!
T-THE USUAL...
SERIOUSLY?! I STOPPED AT FRACTIONS IN MATH...
WAY TOO LATE...
PROBABLY TOO LATE NOW...
NO, IT'S NOT!

I'M HOME...
沢村
OH, EIJUN, YOU'RE BACK?
THERE'S A VISITOR FOR YOU NOW...

もはぁ〜
WHOA!!

SO I'M GOING TO ROT BY MYSELF...
HEY HEY
HEY!
EVERYONE'S LEFT ME BEHIND.
I'M SUNK, GRAMPS.
YOU... WHAT'S WITH THAT DEPRESSED AURA?
AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WORKBOOKS...

WHAT'S WITH THAT PITIFUL FACE!?
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE WHO'S COME ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO FOR YOU!
CLEAN UP THAT FACE AND COME TO THE LIVING ROOM!
EH?
NICE TO MEET YOU.

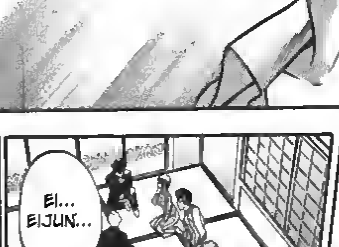
I AM THE GENERAL MANAGER FOR SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL'S BASEBALL CLUB, TAKASHIMA.
Takashima Rei (26)
HUMAN MOUN-TAINS... CLEAVAGE!
UH-!
HEY, EIJUN! SEIDOU IN TOKYO STANDS OUT EVEN AMONG THE FAMOUS SCHOOLS!
SEIDOU HAS EVEN GOTTEN TO KOUSHIEN PLENTY OF TIMES!

YOU PLAY BASEBALL AND YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF SEIDOU?
THERE ARE TONS OF SEIDOU ALUM PLAYING AS PROS!
NOPE!
WHAT'S THAT?
ARE THEY GOOD?
HAHA...
RATHER THAN WATCHING IT ON TV...
PLAYING IT YOURSELF IS 100 TIMES MORE INTERESTING!
BUT STILL... WHY WOULD SOMEONE FROM A FAMOUS TOKYO SCHOOL COME TO SEE THIS GUY?
I AM VERY SORRY.
WHAT?!
QUIET, YOU!!

I OBSERVED THE GAME AGAINST NARUSHIMA JUNIOR THE OTHER DAY.
I FELT THAT SAWAMURA HAD A SPECIAL POTENTIAL.
BUT HE STARTED THAT FUSS AFTER THE GAME...
ウヌ…
THOSE SLAPS HAD A NICE, EFFECTIVE PITCHER'S SNAP TO THEM, DIDN'T THEY!
…
WHAT?!
SHE SERIOUSLY LIKED THEM?
HEY...
NO... HANG ON...
TELL HER YOU'LL GO BEFORE SHE CHANGES HER MIND!
HEY, EIJUN, THIS KIND OF CHANCE DOESN'T COME TWICE.
FI, I'LL MAKE RED RICE FOR DINNER TO CELEBRATE!
…
……!?

GOING TO TOKYO JUST TO PLAY BASEBALL?
AND I DON'T EVEN WANT TO PLAY AT THAT KIND OF STRICT PLACE!!
WH-
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
WHAT DON'T YOU GET ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION?
YEAH, THIS IS A HELPING HAND FOR YOU!
YOU RETARDED SON!
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU NEVER STUDY!
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T BELIEVE IT, THIS IS GREAT CONSIDERING ENTRANCE EXAMS, BUT...
ANYWAY, MY GOAL IS THE SAME.

SO I JUST WANT TO GO TO KOUSHIEN WITH MY FRIENDS HERE...


EI... EIJUN...

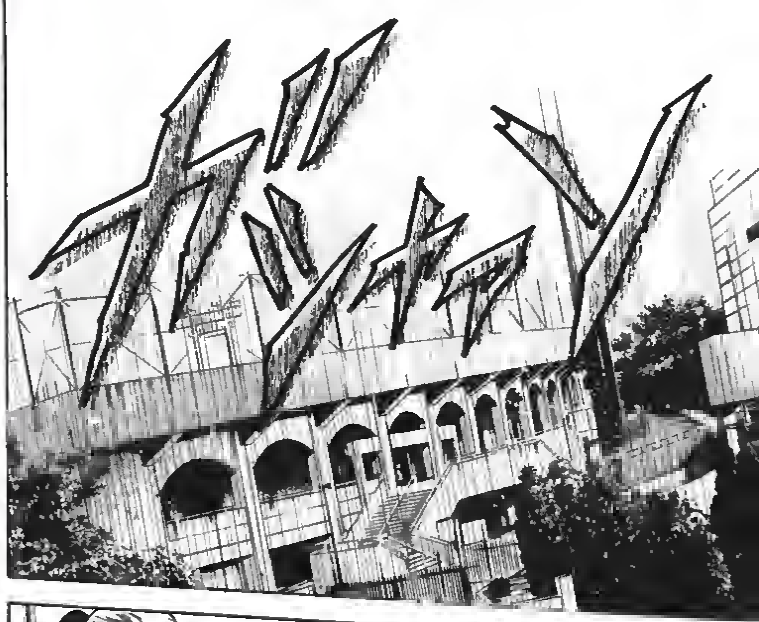
I SEE...

WE WILL ALSO BE VERY BUSY, SO...
WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD COME SOON.
は……
ええ!!
WELL?
WHEN WILL YOU BE ABLE TO COME TO OUR SCHOOL TO LOOK AROUND?
ア
ア
ア
THE GROUNDS MIRROR THE PLAYERS' HEARTS...
THE TRUTH IS ALWAYS THERE, SAWAMURA
SHE'S NOT LISTENING...

!
THE LAST PITCH YOU THREW IN THAT GAME...
THAT SINGLE PITCH WAS CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHERS.
BOTTOM OF THE NINTH, TWO OUTS, BASES LOADED, ONE HIT TILL THE END..
THROWING AWAY ALL YOUR HESITATION, YOU RAISED YOUR RIGHT LEG...
SUPPORTING YOUR ENTIRE BODY... IT WAS A SPLENDID SILHOUETTE
WITHOUT LOSING YOUR BALANCE..

AND LIKE THAT, NATU-RALLY...
OR PERHAPS YOUR PRIDE AS A PITCHER...
BACKED INTO A CORNER, YOU RE-VEALED YOUR ABILITY TO ESCAPE THE CRISIS ..

WITH JUST ONE IN-STINC TIVE BALL!
YOU HELD BACK THE BATTER WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART AND SOUL!!



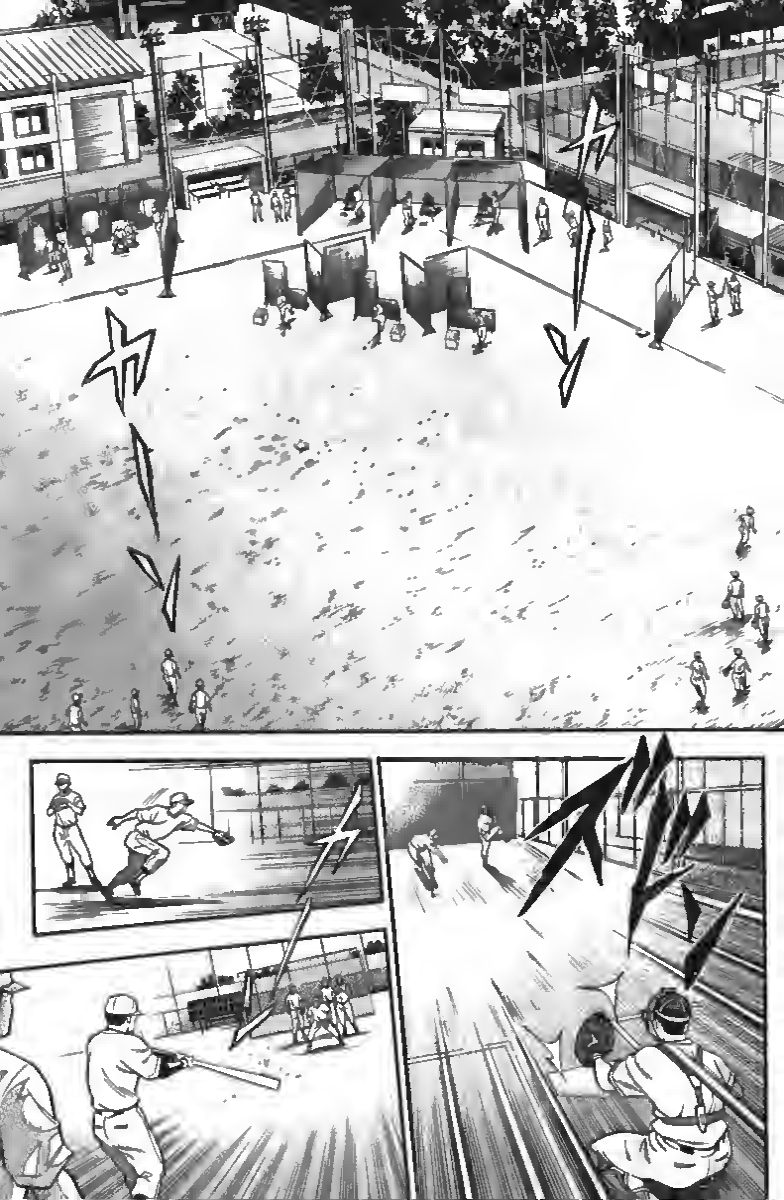
TO THE PEOPLE WATCHING, IT WAS PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER PITCH...
BUT TO ME, IT WAS THE TRUE ESSENCE OF A PITCHER!

ISN'T SHE KIND OF SUSPI-CIOUS?
IS SHE REALLY FROM SEIDOU?
HEY, WHAT HAS SHE BEEN GOING ON ABOUT?
HOW THE SLAPS WERE AND THAT WILD PITCH AND STUFF...
CURRENTLY IN A FAMILY MEETING...
SOMEHOW, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S UNAWARE...
OF THE TRUE NATURE OF THE BALLS HE THROWS.
WATCHING DISTRUSTFULLY
EH?
IN ANY CASE, SAWAMU-RA.
I WANT YOU TO COME WATCH OUR PRACTICE ONCE...
AS THE VALUABLE LEADER OF AKAGI JUNIOR'S TEAM...
WHO HAS NOT YET FOUND A RIVAL TO MOTIVATE HIM.

IF YOU ARE TRULY AIMING FOR KOUSH-IEN...
THEN IT WON'T HURT...
TO WATCH A NATIONAL-LEVEL PRACTICE, WILL IT?
THE NATIONALS...
.....
HA..
HAHA..
IS SHE..
IS SHE LOOKING DOWN ON AKAGI JUNIOR?

IS HAVING GIANT BOOBS THAT GREAT?!
NB: THERE'S REALLY NO CONNECTION
HA, HA, HA, HA...
クス…
AFTER ALL, I'LL JUST BE CHECKING THINGS OUT, RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO SEE YOUR "NATIONAL-LEVEL" GUYS...

KOKUBUNJI, TOKYO
SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL
PRIVATE GROUNDS 1 AND 2
S



カキーン
!!
STILL ALIVE

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF THINGS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
キョロ
キョロ
WHOA. WHAT ARE THOSE MACHINES?

ハッ

THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR PRACTICE ON RAINY DAYS OVER THERE, TOO...
カキーン
WHAT DO YOU THINK? THESE GROUNDS AND FACILITIES ARE OUR SCHOOL'S PRIDE.
HALF OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS LIVE IN THE DORMS!

EVEN WITHOUT SPENDING THIS KIND OF MONEY, YOU CAN PLAY BASEBALL!
!

HEY, I'M NOT EXCITED AT ALL!
JUST A LITTLE SURPRISED IS ALL!

ANYWAY, FOR PLAYERS, YOU'VE GATHERED ALL KINDS OF GOOD GUYS, RIGHT?
SO OF COURSE THEY'RE GOING TO BE STRONG...
BY THE WAY...
THIS KIND OF ELITE GROUP THAT YOU'VE RECRUITED FROM ALL OVER...
雑草魂
EVEN IF I DIE, I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO THEM.
OF COURSE, IT'S LIKE YOU SAID...
ABOUT HALF OF OUR TEAM IS FROM OUTSIDE TOKYO...
GUYS THAT ARE HERE TO "STUDY BASEBALL ABROAD."

PEOPLE CRITICIZE MANY THINGS ABOUT TRAVELING TO STUDY BASEBALL, BUT...
LOCAL PLAYERS DON'T JUST GET ON THE FIELD.
WE ONLY CARE ABOUT A PLAYER'S ABILITIES.
SEEMS LIKE SOME RANDOM PLAYERS THROWN IN A TEAM TO-GETHER...
I DON'T AGREE WITH THEM AT ALL...
おしこぉーい
THEY SAY JAPAN'S HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD...
THIS IS AN ERA WHERE THE PROS CHALLENGE THE MAJOR LEAGUERS ONE BY ONE

"I WANT TO BE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AT BASE-BALL!"
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW 15-YEAR-OLD BOYS WHO LEAVE THEIR PARENTS TO PURSUE BASEBALL WITH THAT KIND OF SINGLEMINDED-NESS...
THEY PUSH THEM-SELVES AND TRAIN IN A HARSH ENVI-RONMENT TO RAISE THEIR ABILITIES.
YOU SEE, I...
!!

DRIVE...
THOSE KINDS OF ATHLETES THAT HAVE DRIVE AND AMBITION...
FROM THE VERY BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I RESPECT THEM.

ドゥン
ドゥン
ドゥン
THERE IS A STRANGE TENSION ON THIS FIELD...
不動心
IMMOVABLE SOUL
BET IT ALL ON ONE BALL
この一球に
己のすべてをかけろ
ドゥン
ゴクッ
ど、

ARE YOU MOCKING ME OR SOME-THING?
HEY, PITCHER!! WHAT'S WITH THAT COWARDLY BALL?!
IF YOU THROW LIKE THIS, I CAN'T PRACTICE!
THROW A MORE LIVELY BALL!!
WORN OUT BY JUST THIS MUCH...
SORRY.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO MAKE IT ON THE BENCH LIKE THAT!

I'M SICK OF PITCHERS LIKE YOU!!
IF YOU'RE NOT UP TO IT, JUST GO BACK TO YOUR HICK BURG, IDIOT!!
YOU SHOULD WATCH HIS BATTING...
I'M UP TO IT...
SO THROW IT QUICKLY!
HE'S A MONSTER WHO'S PROUD OF HIS 42 BASE HITS IN HIS HIGH SCHOOL CAREER.
AZUMA KIYOKUNI.
FOR NOW, HE'S FAVORED IN THIS YEAR'S DRAFT!
え?

AGH!! THERE WASN'T ANY RESIS-TANCE AT ALL!
HOW'D YOU GET HERE WITHOUT ANY SKILLS?!
CHANCE! CHANCE!
YOU'RE DONE!
YEAH...

え?
THAT'S...
BOX HIM UP AND SEND HIM BACK TO HIS HICK BURG!!
SOMEONE GRAB THAT GUY!
YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO THE PROS WITH THAT KIND OF BODY?!
I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU REALLY SHOULD GIVE UP!!
CHECK IT OUT, LOOK AT THAT BELLY!
ISN'T HE A GEEZER?!
WAIT--!
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, HE HAS TO BE OVER 40!
IDIOT HE'S SO LOUD

HE'S BEEN MOCKING MY BEST POINT...
WHO... WHO IS THIS GUY?
HAHA! "BEST POINT"?
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S YOUR WEAK POINT!
STILL ALIVE
WHO... WHO IS THAT BRAT?
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS A BIT OF A GUT, HE DOES WATCH HIS DIET!
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

MM... WHAT'S THIS BASE-BALL STUDY ABROAD CRAP?
JUST A-! AZUMA...
SAWAMURA, APOLOGIZE NOW!!
WHOA...
OUTTA MY WAY!!
STUFF LIKE DRIVE AND AMBITION MAY BE FINE AND ALL, BUT...
NO MATTER WHAT THIS STRONG GUY SAYS, I DON'T APPROVE...
EVEN IF THE WORLD AC-CEPTS HIM...
I NEVER WILL!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, TELLING HIM TO "GO BACK TO HI'S HICK BURG"?
ABUSING A TEAMMATE THAT PRAC-TICES WITH YOU...

HAS THIS SO-CALLED FAMOUS SCHOOL...
YOU CAN'T PLAY BASEBALL AT ALL ON YOUR OWN...
あ！
LOST SIGHT OF THE IM-PORTANCE OF TEAM-MATES?!

ANYWAY, MY GOAL IS THE SAME...
SO I JUST WANT TO GO TO KOUSHIEN WITH MY FRIENDS HERE.
HIS...
FRIENDS?
SORRY, AZUMA...
!
THIS BOY JUST CAME FROM THE COUNTRY, SO HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET THIS KID OFF THE MOUND UNTIL HE STARTS BAWLING!
HUGE..
THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE, SO DO YOU THINK YOU COULD SHOW HIM YOUR TRUE BATTING POWER?
YEAH
NOT A PROBLEM AT ALL FOR ME!
SAWA MURA!
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!
WAIT A MINUTE! I DON'T WANT TO TRAIN WITH THIS KIND OF GUY!!
EH?!
HEY, HURRY UP AND CHANGE!
IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL HIM, WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM THROUGH BASEBALL?
THIS IS A BASEBALL FIELD, SO...
HEH.... SEEMS LIKE FUN!

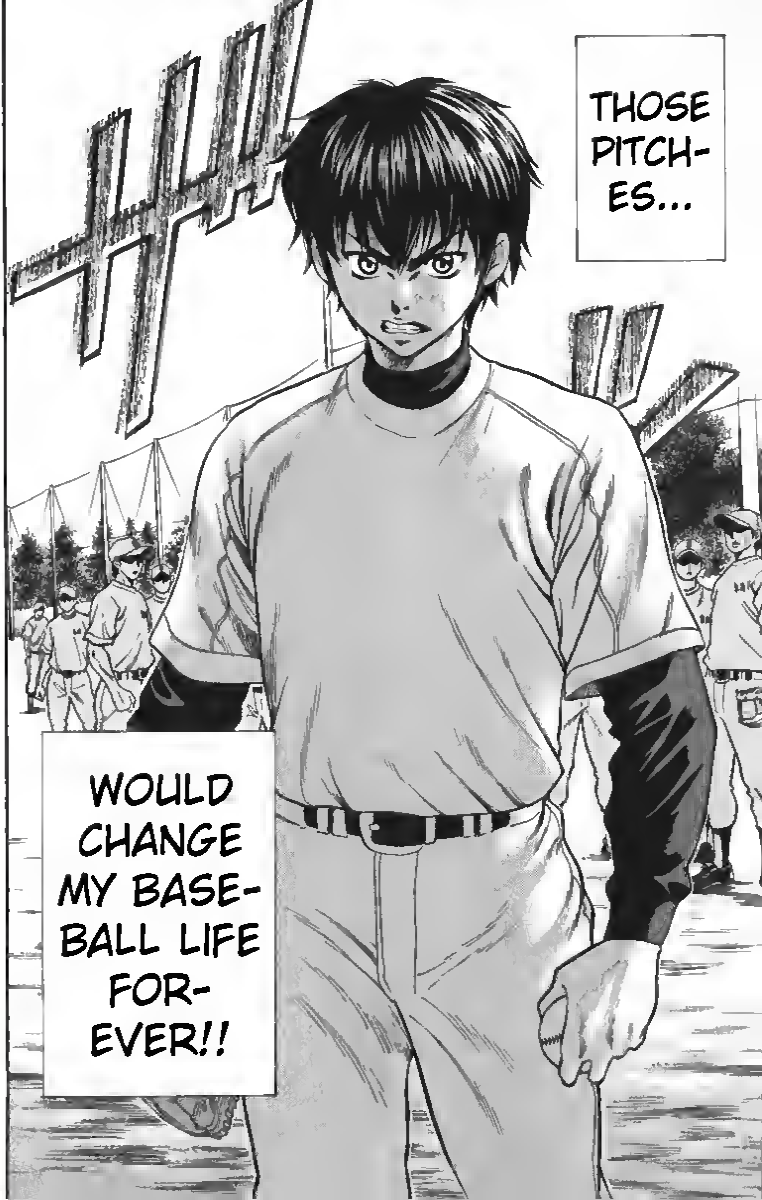
MISS REI... WILL YOU LET ME CATCH THAT GUY'S BALL?
Miyuki Kazuya (First Year)
HAHAHA, SORRY!
HEY, MIYUKI!
FIRST-YEARS SHOULDN'T BE BUTTING IN!!
...EH?
BUT AZUMA, YOU'VE BEEN A BRAGGART LATELY...
BURNING TO PLAY WITH A KID, I THINK IT WOULD BE NICE TO GET THAT FEELING BACK...
GRR...

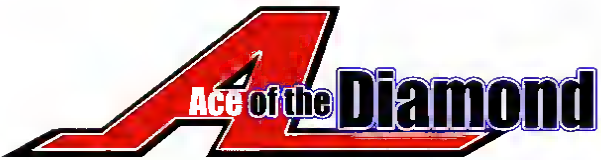
HEY, WHO'S A BRAG-GART?!
IS THAT WHAT ALL YOU GUYS THINK OF ME?!
MIYUKI, YOU PIECE OF CRAP!!
AZUMA, CHILL...
KAZUYA, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
HE'S PISSED AT YOU!!
HEY, KAZUYA!
APOLOGIZE ALREADY!
BECAUSE THAT KID THROWS AN INTERESTING BALL...
MIYUKI...
I'D BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD CATCH FOR HIM.

BUT HE HASN'T REALIZED HIS TRUE NATURE...
SO COULD YOU PULL OUT HIS POTENTIAL ALL THE WAY?
EH?
WHAT'S THIS?
GOD...
WHAT AM I DOING...?
COMING TO THIS KIND OF PLACE...
DOESN'T SHE HAVE SOME RIDICULOUS EXPECTATIONS OF ME?

HEY, BRAT! YOU SHOULD GET DOWN AND APOLOGIZE RIGHT NOW.
ムッ
ONCE YOU GET UP ON THAT MOUND...
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY OUT!
HEH, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? SO FULL OF YOURSELF...
THE ONE WITH NO WAY OUT IS GOING TO BE YOU!
OR RATHER...
スッ

!
MAN, THIS GUY IS FUNNY...
HA HA HA...
どど～ん
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!
HEY, MIYUK!! WHAT'RE YOU LAUGHING AT?!
THAT DAY...
THE 11 PITCHES THAT I THREW...
ガッ
ガッ
キラッ
DON'T BE COMPLAINING EVEN IF YOU GET HIT!


THOSE PITCH-ES...
WOULD CHANGE MY BASE-BALL LIFE FOR-EVER!!


Ace of the Diamond

IN A CORNER OF THE GROUNDS, THERE'S AN AREA WITH JUST A PITCHER'S PLATE...
THAT WAS MY MOUND...
ALL RIGHT! THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH WARMING UP!
LET'S GO!!
THIS MOUND IS DISAP-POINT-ING...
BUT IT'S EASY TO PITCH FROM.

第2話／相棒
Partners
ダイヤのA
エース

WHAT'S WITH THAT BALL?
MOUTHING OFF LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE WORSE THAN THE USUAL LINEUP...
Azuma Kiyokuni
I'D TAP THAT KIND OF BALL OUT OF THE PARK EVEN WITH MY EYES CLOSED.
HAHAHA! SO YOU'LL GO EASY ON HIM?
HAHA... I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU, AZUMA!
IDIOT! I ALWAYS USE A FULL SWING!
DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S A JUNIOR HIGH KID!
HE'S JUST A JUNIOR HIGH KID, ANYWAY.
Miyuki Kazuya
IT WOULD SUCK IF WE GOT CAUGHT BY THE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FEDERATION...
IS THAT OKAY, MRS. TAKASHIMA?!
HAVING A JUNIOR HIGH KID ON OUR MOUND...

AS LONG AS YOU GUYS KEEP QUIET, ALL RIGHT?
IT'S FINE!
Takashima Rei

フゥー
Sawamura Eijun

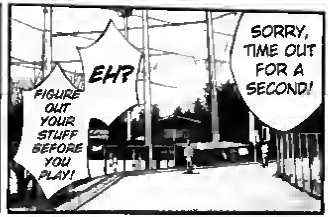
HIS EXPRESSION IS A BIT STIFF...
ムッ
WHAT'S WITH THE BRAT'S SERIOUS FACE?!
YOU'LL CHANGE THAT FACE AFTER ONE HIT, SO COME ON AND THROW!

WE'LL TRICK HIM AND LOOSEN YOU UP WITH A NICE BALL.
NOW, THEN... JUST USE HALF OF YOUR STRENGTH...
HMM

UNH!
AHAHA! WHAT'S THAT?!
AREN'T YOU JUST SWINGING YOUR HAND AROUND?!
LET ME KNOW IF PITCHING'S TOO SCARY FOR YOU!!

HE FORCED THE PATH TO CHANGE MID-THROW!
NO... THAT'S WRONG!

HEY!


SORRY, TIME OUT FOR A SECOND!
EH?
FIGURE OUT YOUR STUFF BEFORE YOU PLAY!

JUST NOW, YOU MEANT FOR THE BALL TO HIT THE GROUND, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW COME?

I FELT LIKE HE'D HIT THE BALL IF I THREW IT ON THAT COURSE...
HMM?
HAHA! I SEE!
SO IT FELT LIKE HE WAS GONNA HIT IF YOU THREW?
WHAT... IS THAT WRONG?!
YOU... WERE RIGHT!
THE TRUTH IS, THAT COURSE WAS THE ONE HE'S BEST AT HITTING!

EH?!
NAH... YOU WERE JUST PRETTY STIFF, SO I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU WENT OUT LIKE A HERO, YOU'D RELAX A BIT...
IF YOU THREW IT THERE, HE DEFINITELY WOULD'VE HIT IT!
WHY YOU...
I'M SOOO SORRY!
I'M PRETTY INTERESTED IN YOU!
SO LET'S TAKE OUT THAT MONSTER TOGETHER AS A COUPLE!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE YOU?!
YOU'RE PROBABLY WORKING FOR THAT CREEP!
HAHA! ARE YOU RETARDED?
IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO FAVOR YOU, YOU HAVE TO BE OBEDIENT!
SHUT UP! DON'T TOUCH ME!

SO, WHAT KIND OF BALLS DO YOU HAVE?
EH?!
WELL, UH... I ALWAYS THROW IT STRAIGHT!
SERIOUSLY?
AHAHA!! YOU'RE PRETTY INTERESTING!
I GUESS YOU'RE A FUN PITCHER TO LEAD, THEN!
HEY, ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP MAKING FUN OF ME?!
NO, NO, MY BAD! ♡
ANYWAY, LEAVE THE LEADING UP TO ME!
BECAUSE I KNOW ALL OF HIS HABITS!
HEY, IT HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
THIS IS A MATCH BETWEEN ME AND THE CREEP!
OH? SO THAT'S HOW IT IS?
SO LET GO OF ME!!

HEY...
ARE YOU PLANNING TO PLAY BASEBALL ALL ON YOUR OWN?

HAS THIS SO-CALLED FAMOUS SCHOOL...
LOST SIGHT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TEAM-MATES?!

LIKE... ONE?

DOESN'T THE BEST PITCHING HAPPEN WHEN THE PITCHER AND CATCHER ARE LIKE ONE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF BASEBALL YOU'VE PLAYED UNTIL NOW, BUT...

IF YOU DO JUST THAT, WE'LL BE PARTNERS!
I'LL PULL OUT ALL OF YOUR STRENGTH.
SO JUST TRUST MY MITT AND THROW YOUR BEST BALLS.
SO...!
YEAH
UH
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
PARTNER.

PAR...
PARTNERSooo
O-
OKAY...

BEST PITCHING?
TALKING CRAP ABOUT ME, HUH?
HAHA, NO WAY.
LIKE ONE?
SORRY! THANKS FOR WAITING!
YOU GUYS ARE SLOW!
SOME GUY I JUST MET TODAY IS CALLING ME "PARTNER"?
AND I AGREED WITHOUT THINKING...
NOW, SHALL WE TAKE OUT THAT MONSTER?
HEH, ALL RIGHT...
BUT... "LIKE ONE"...

LET'S GO!!
I'VE NEVER...
THOUGHT THAT WAY ABOUT PITCHING BEFORE.
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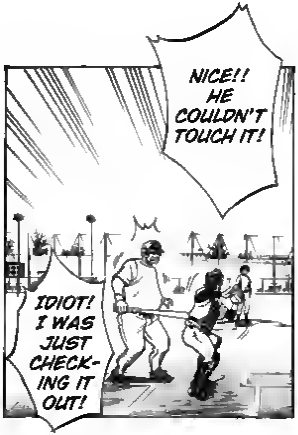
HIS STIFF-NESS IS GONE NOW.
オ

IT'S IN... RIGHT?

THE SOUND FROM HIS MITT JUST NOW...
AM I... PITCHING WELL TODAY?


NICE!! HE COULDN'T TOUCH IT!
IDIOT! I WAS JUST CHECK-ING IT OUT!

OKAY NEXT IS...

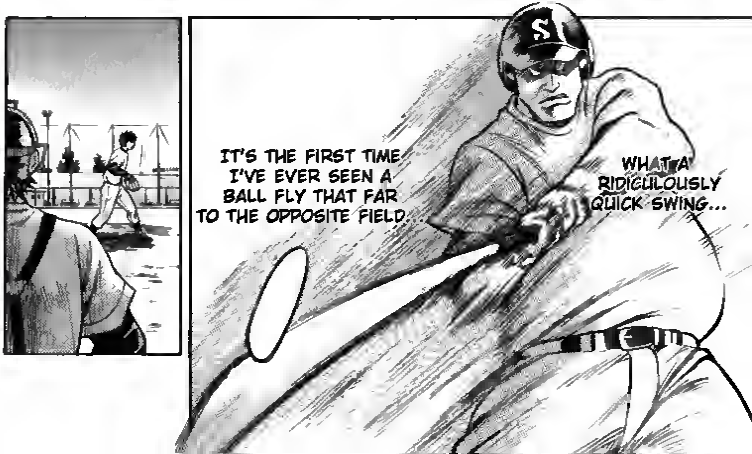
UH...
THERE?

HEH... REGARD-ING HIS SPEED..
HE THROWS A NICE, SHARP BALL...

HEY...
IF YOU THROW THE SECOND BALL ON THE SAME COURSE...
BRAT!

WHOA... IT'S GOING!!
EVEN THOUGH THE BALL WAS HEADING RIGHT, IT'S STRAIGHTENING OUT!

GRR!
FOUL!
WHOOOA...


IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN A BALL FLY THAT FAR TO THE OPPOSITE FIELD.
WHAT A RIDICULOUSLY QUICK SWING...

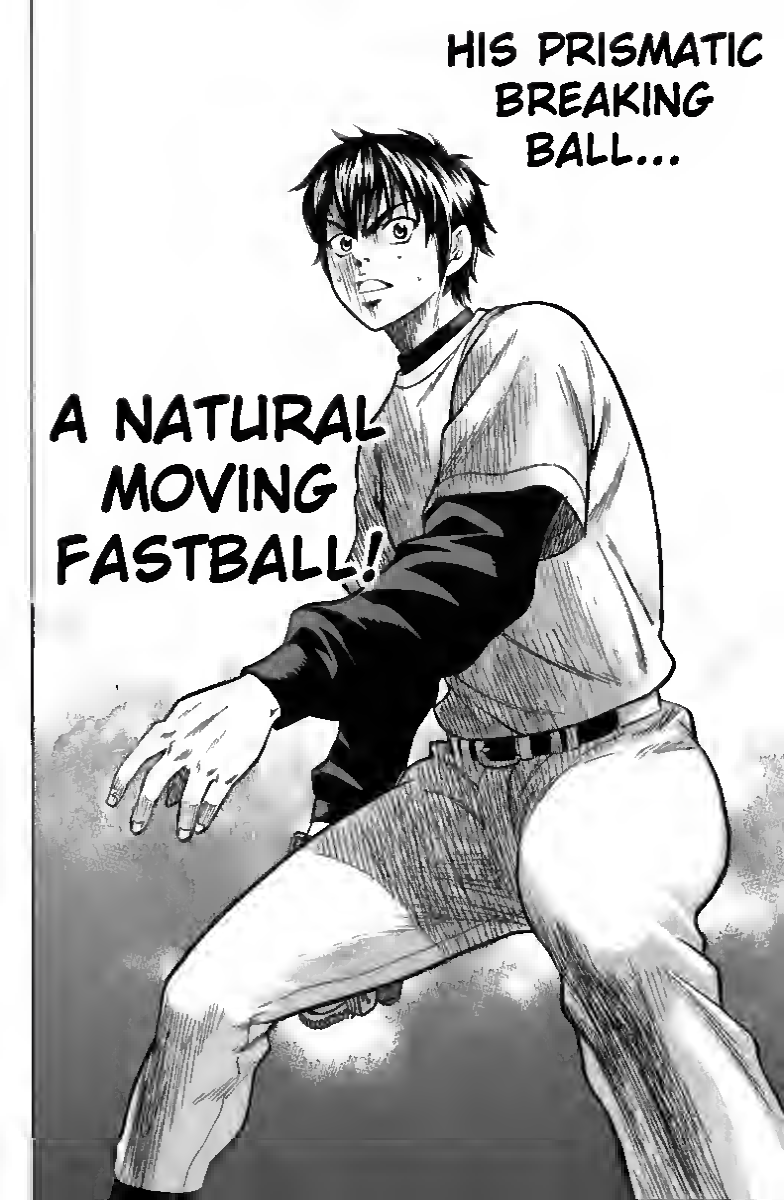
DIDN'T HE SHIFT HIS POSITION HALF A STEP ?
EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS THROWN ON THE SAME COURSE...
JUST NOW, HE...
BUT...
AS LONG AS IT'S THIS COURSE, EVEN IF HE HITS IT, IT'LL ONLY BE A FOUL.
YEP...
ドッ
ドッ
ドッ

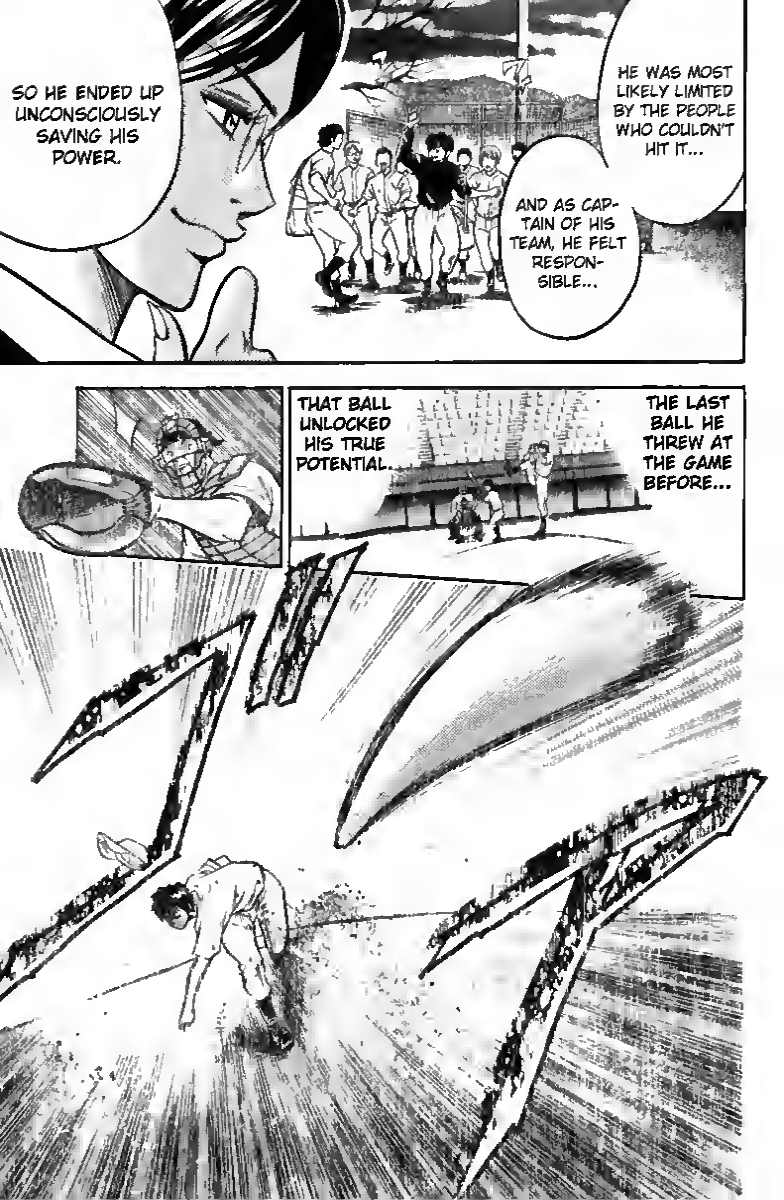
FINE... EVEN IF YOU THINK I'M BENEATH YOU, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HIT YOUR WEAK POINTS!!
I NEED A STRIKE AGAINST AZUMA...
GRR...
HIS CONTROL IS THROWING ME OFF... BUT EVEN IF IT'S HARD TO SEE, IT'S NO MATCH FOR ME!
HAHA... JUST GET MADDER.

IT'S NOT JUST HIS PITCHING...
HIS BALLS ARE GETTING SHARPER.
AT ANY RATE, HIS BALLS...
EVERY TIME HE THROWS...
HIS PITCHING IS GETTING BETTER?
ﾌﾑ
I SEE...
BECAUSE THAT KID THROWS AN INTERESTING BALL.
MIYUKI... I'D BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD CATCH FOR HIM.

HIS LEFT ARM FLEXES IN A CIRCLE JUST LIKE A WHIP...
WITH A RELAXED SHOULDER...
HIS FINGERS GENTLY APPLY A STRONG SPIN.
THEN, JUST BEFORE HE RELEASES...

HAHA!
WHAT A STRAIGHT!
AT THE BATTER'S HANDS, THE BALL BREAKS UP AND DOWN, LEFT AND RIGHT...!
HE DOESN'T MEAN TO THROW ANY BREAKING BALLS, BUT...
VERY NICE, IT'S COMING OUT
HM...
HIS NATURAL STYLE...


HIS PRISMATIC BREAKING BALL...
A NATURAL MOVING FASTBALL!


SO HE ENDED UP UNCONSCIOUSLY SAVING HIS POWER.
HE WAS MOST LIKELY LIMITED BY THE PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T HIT IT...
AND AS CAPTAIN OF HIS TEAM, HE FELT RESPONSIBLE...
THAT BALL UNLOCKED HIS TRUE POTENTIAL.
THE LAST BALL HE THREW AT THE GAME BEFORE...

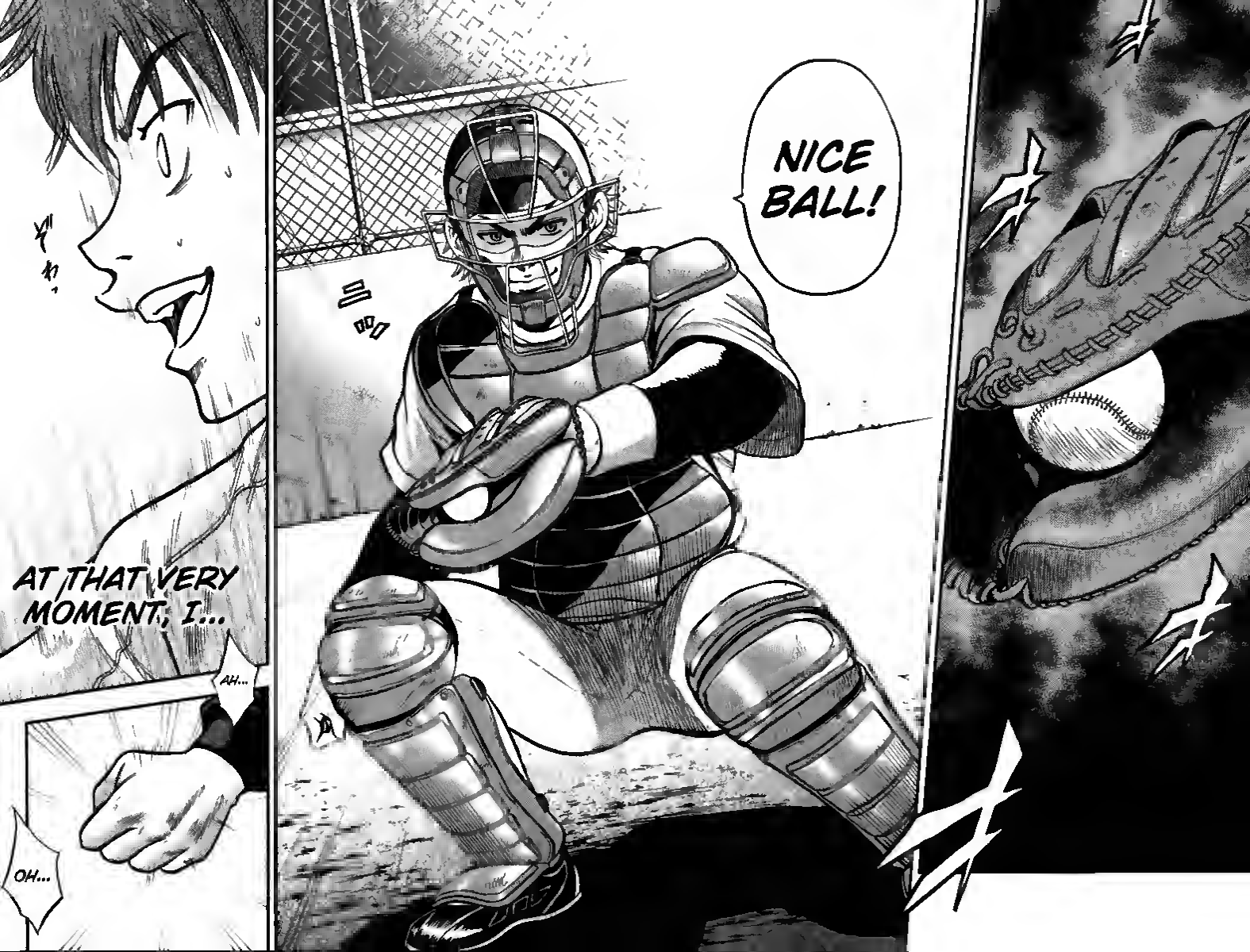
HAHA... I GUESS I'M IN REALLY GOOD FORM, TODAY?
FEELS LIKE I CAN STILL DO A BIT MORE.
HEY, HEY... YOUR EYES ARE LIGHTING UP...
I'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO CATCHING THAT UNPREDICTABLE PITCH...
WELL, THAT'S PART OF BEING A CATCHER, TOO...
IS SAWAMURA HIMSELF!
FOR SUCH AN UNIMAGINABLE BALL TO BE THROWN NATURALLY...
A BALL THAT'S ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE CATCHER TO STOP...
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE RIGHT NOW, THE PERSON MOST ASTONISHED BY THAT BALL...

EH?
DON'T WORRY! JUST LET 'ER RIP!!
I'LL DEFINITELY CATCH IT. SO...

HAHA...
RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE...
WHAT'S THIS?
I CAN TOTALLY HEAR MY HEARTBEAT.

MAN...
I CAN THROW STRONGER PITCHES...
IF I TRUST THAT MITT...
EVEN STRONGER...
I'LL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO PITCH...

WITH THIS, IT'S OVER!!
YOU BRAT!!
EVEN STRONGER!


NICE BALL!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, I...
AH...
OH...

I THINK I OPENED A DOOR TO A NEW WORLD...
WOO!

NICE JOB TODAY.
にしこくぶんじ
Nishi Kokubunji
I THINK TODAY WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR AZUMA.
I WANTED HIM TO BE A LITTLE MORE HUMBLE BEFORE HE BECAME A PRO.
TOKYO IS A BATTLE-GROUND PACKED WITH EXPERIENCED PLAYERS.
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, IT MIGHT NEVER PAY OFF...

EVEN SO, IF YOU DECIDE YOU WANT TO CHALLENGE OUR SCHOOL, CONTACT ME.
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE, AFTER ALL.

ALL RIGHT...
.....

SURPRISE EXCITEMENT A NEW PLACE
FEELING GUILTY ABOUT MY FRIENDS
STILL ALIVE
プァ
LOCAL... ...TOKYO...

INSIDE MY HEAD WAS PURE WHITE...
ALONE IN THE TRAIN HOME, CALMING DOWN...
STILL
BUT STILL... JUST THE SOUND FROM THAT MITT...
CONSTANTLY ECHOED INSIDE MY HEAD...

Ace of the Diamond

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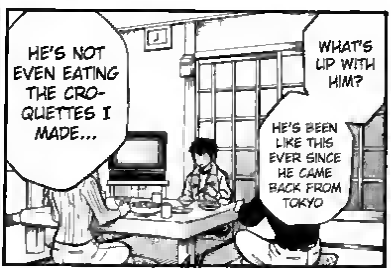
HEY... EIJUN...


HE'S NOT EVEN EATING THE CROQUETTES I MADE...
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE HE CAME BACK FROM TOKYO

BEGINNING WITH A SLAP, ENDING WITH A SLAP...
THE SAWAMURA HOUSEHOLD'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
MEALS ARE BATTLES FOR ATHLETES!
SO IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA FIGHT, GET OUT!
YOU'RE BEING BAD TONIGHT!

WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRESSIONLESS FACE?!

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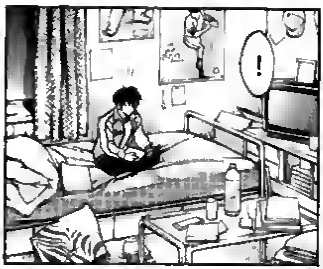
第3話／旅立ちの日
Departure Day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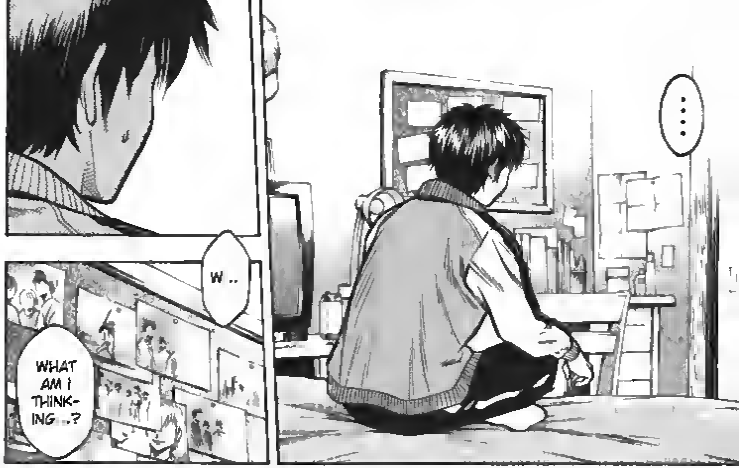
パラ

西東京地区
This Month's Pick-Up Rookie
"Don't take your eyes off of this boy!"
Will he become the savior of the famous Seidou?
First-Year Catcher
Miyuki Kazuya (16)

バッ

SO HE IS AN AMAZING GUY.
ONLY A YEAR'S DIFFERENCE AND HE'S ALREADY BEEN PICKED UP BY THIS MAGAZINE...

NICE BALL!
EVEN NOW, I CAN'T GET THE SOUND OF THAT MITT OUT OF MY EARS...
I WONDER HOW MUCH BETTER I COULD GET...
IF I PLAYED BASEBALL TOGETHER WITH THIS GUY...


...
W...
WHAT AM I THINKING...?

LEAVING THIS TOWN... FOR TOKYO?
THAT'S CRAZY!

ズズズ
I WAS THE ONE THAT DRAGGED THEM INTO THE WORLD OF BASE-BALL...
BEFORE I GRADUATE FROM JUNIOR HIGH, I WANT TO GIVE SOME-THING TO EVERYONE...
フン

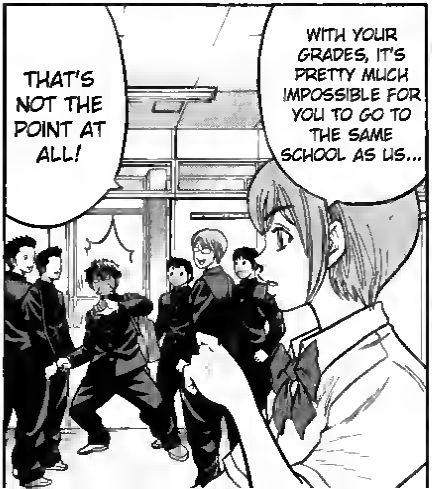
AND THEY STUCK WITH ME TO THE END.
THEY WEREN'T EVEN INTERESTED IN SPORTS TO BEGIN WITH...
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY BETRAY THEM?
HOW...
I CAN'T...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

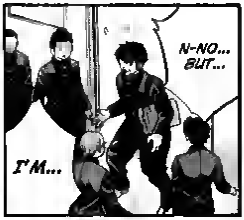
MORNIN'!
GOOD MORNIN'..
I ENDED UP NOT BEING ABLE TO SLEEP AT ALL....
UGH... MAN.
CON-GRATULA-TIONS, EI!
EH?
CON-GRATULA-TIONS! YOU DID IT!
GRATS!
AH... EI!

YOU WERE SCOUTED BY SEIDOU, WEREN'T YOU?
.....
IT'S A PRETTY HISTORIC ACHIEVE-MENT!
YOUR GRAND-FATHER CAME TO MY HOUSE YESTERDAY AND TOLD US!
YEAH, MINE TOO!
MINE, TOO!!
NAAH! MY GRANDSON...
Sawamura Eiuku (79)
Eiuku!!
JUST A MINUTE, I HAVEN'T SAID A WORD ABOUT GOING TO SEIDOU!
HUH? WHY?
AND WHY? IT'S ALL THE WAY OUT IN TOKYO, GUYS!
GOING TO TOKYO JUST FOR BASE-BALL?!
YOU GET IT?!

HEY...
IT'S REALLY SOMETHING TO BE THRILLED ABOUT!
YEAH... BUT SEIDOU KNOWS HOW GOOD YOU ARE!

IF IT'S YOU, YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY CHALLENGE THEM!
THIS KIND OF CHANCE WON'T COME TWICE!
HE'S RIGHT, EI!!


THAT'S NOT THE POINT AT ALL!
WITH YOUR GRADES, IT'S PRETTY MUCH IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS US...

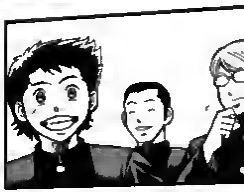

I'M...
N-NO... BUT...

HEY YOU KNOW...

YOU ALREADY KNOW YOU WANT TO GO TO TOKYO...
AND IF I GOT SERIOUS ABOUT IT-!!
SHUT UP, THE ENTRANCE EXAMS AREN'T FOR A WHILE!
AH?!
SO YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
EH?
.....
HE SAID IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE SHOCKED BY THE BASEBALL YOU SAW IN TOKYO.
THAT'S WHAT YOUR GRANDFATHER TOLD US YESTERDAY.
HE SAID EVER SINCE YOU GOT BACK FROM TOKYO, YOU'VE BEEN KIND OF WEIRD..

!!

IT'S YOUR WEAK POINT, EI!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A PITCHER, YOU'RE REALLY EASY TO READ!



HEHE

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AT ALL!
NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, WE'LL ALL CHEER FOR YOU!
YEAH, BECAUSE YOU'LL BE OUR REPRE-SENTATIVE!
CON-GRATU-LATIONS, E!!
YOU'RE WRONG... WHAT ARE YOU GUYS SAYING?
I...
I... WITH YOU GUYS...

ボヘ～

NO... THAT, UH I JUST...
AHAHA!
GRANDPA... YOU WENT AND TOLD EVERYONE ABOUT THE SCOUTING TALK...

HEH... HE'S LIKE THIS AGAIN?
WH..T'S WITH HIM?
IS MY COOKING THAT BAD?

EIJUN... TONIGHT'S SLAP IS GOING TO BE A LOT WORSE!
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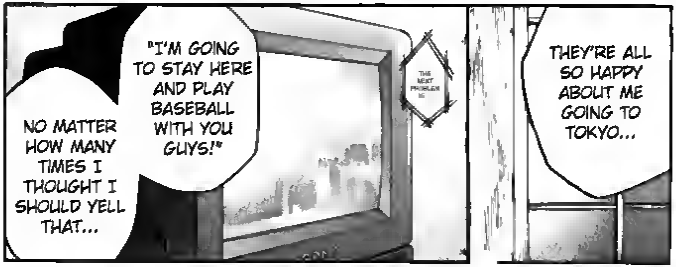
HA, HAHA...
I COULDN'T
I... COULDN'T TELL THEM...


NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I THOUGHT I SHOULD YELL THAT...
"I'M GOING TO STAY HERE AND PLAY BASEBALL WITH YOU GUYS!"
THE NEXT PHOENIX HI
THEY'RE ALL SO HAPPY ABOUT ME GOING TO TOKYO...

GOD...
WHY AM I...
I COULDN'T TELL THEM ANYTHING AT ALL...
IN THE END, I...

BUT... THEY... THEY'RE MY BEST FRIENDS!
I WANTED TO TELL THEM... I WAS SHAKING SO HARD...
TOKYO SEEMED LIKE MY FIRST REAL TEST SINCE I WAS BORN...

IT'S LIKE THIS AND I HAVE TO GO TOKYO, AND THEY'RE HAPPY!
GOD!!
THEY DON'T GET IT...

DON'T BE SO FULL OF YOURSELF!!
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!!
SLAP
EI EIJUN...
EIJUN!!

AND THEN WHAT?!
IS YOUR FRIENDSHIP SOMETHING BROKEN SO EASILY BY PARTING!?
YOU THOUGHT IF YOU BAWLED FOR A BIT, SOMEONE WOULD STOP YOU? HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THAT?! YOUR FRIENDS ARE CELEBRATING FOR YOU!
WHAT'S WITH THAT REPLY
HAHAHA
SO PATHETIC..
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY JUST ADULTS!!
HEY... EIJUN...

HEY... IS GOING TO TOKYO ALONE REALLY THAT SCARY?
W-WHAT, WHAT ARE YOU...
I'M NOT...
SO, ISN'T IT FINE IF YOU GO?
ドクン

YOU SAID IT WAS LIKE A TEST FOR YOU, DIDN'T YOU?
IN YOUR HEART, YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER, RIGHT?
ドクン
OF COURSE, IT'S NOT REALLY A REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL...
IT'S A BASE-BALL KINGDOM THAT ONLY GATHERS PEOPLE LIKE THE ACES AND CLEANUP HITTERS FROM EVERY JUNIOR HIGH...
ドクン
SIGNING ON WITH THAT KIND OF PLACE...
OF COURSE YOU'D BE SCARED...
BUT... YOU KNOW, EIJUN...

IF YOU HIDE THOSE FEELINGS HERE, NOW...
WON'T YOU REGRET IT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

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ドクン
ドクン

EVEN IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, NOBODY HERE WOULD BE LAUGHING AT YOU.
IF IT ENDS UP NOT WORKING OUT, CAN'T YOU JUST COME BACK HERE?
YOU LAZY IDIOT! WHAT'S WITH THAT STUBBORN-NESS!?
SHUT UP! I STILL DON'T REGRET IT AT ALL!!
AREN'T I SITTING AROUND LIKE THIS TO HELP OUT WITH THE FARM?!
THIS IS MY POLICY!
PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?
DID YOU KNOW? A LONG TIME AGO, HE WANTED TO BE A MUSICIAN!
HE WAS BAWLING, SAYING "TOKYO'S SOOO SCARY!"
EVEN THOUGH HE UP AND LEFT THE HOUSE, HE CAME CRAWLING BACK THREE MONTHS LATER!!
IT'S JUST LIKE DAD SAID...
THIS IS SO PATHETIC...
I...

I... I'M GOING OUT.
EH?

I GUESS I REALLY SHOULD...
TELL EVERYONE MY TRUE FEELINGS.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE BACK!!
WHA- HEY!
IT'S LATE! YOU COULD JUST TELL THEM TOMORROW...
...
EIJUN...

NO WAY, CAN'T BE TOMOR-ROW!
AFTER THIS, I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SEE THEM MUCH!
うひょ～
ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING TO START OFF WITH WAKANA'S HOUSE!
JUST WAIT FOR ME, GUYS!!
THAT IDIOT...
HOW LONG DOES HE THINK IT'S GOING TO TAKE TO GO TO EACH OF THEIR HOUSES?

REALLY... WHO DOES HE REMIND ME OF?
AN IDIOT THAT KEEPS GOING UNTIL HE MAKES IT TO HIS DESTINATION...
I GUESS THE HOUSE WILL BE A BIT QUIETER...
HMM...

HAHA!
BUT I WAS TOTALLY SURPRISED THEN!
YEAH, YEAH!!
MY GRANDMA THOUGHT YOU WERE A BURGLAR AND CALLED THE COPS!
COMING OVER TO MY HOUSE ALL OF A SUDDEN AT NIGHT AND SLAPPING ME!
NO WAY! THAT'S NORMAL!

あはは
SHUT UP!!
POURING HIS STRENGTH OUT ON EVERYONE...
THAT'S EIJUN FOR YOU!
ARE YOU HERE, WAKANA?!
REALLY.. YOU'RE THE WORST!
!

PASSENGERS RIDING THE 3:03 TRAIN BOUND FOR TOKYO...
THE TRAIN IS COMING TO THE SECOND..
ははは
EIJUN, IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE UP, JUST CALL ME, ALL RIGHT?
THEN I'LL SEND YOU SOME OF MY POWER!!
GOOD LUCK, EI!
WRITE ME SOME E-MAIL, OKAY?
EI!!
NOW, NOW, SANO!
YOU IDIOT!!
HURRY UP AND LEAVE!
AHAHA!

ポロ…
I'LL WORK HAR-
IDIOTS, WHY ARE YOU CRYING?!
IF YOU CRY, IT'LL BE HARDER FOR E!!
S-SORRY... IT'S JUST...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A NUISANCE, E!...
HUH? HAHA..
I'M SUCH A CRAPPY CATCHER...
MY SHOULDERS ARE WEAK.., AND I LET THE BALL GET PAST ME..
AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT... AREN'T I HOLDING YOU BACK?

AND AKIO HERE KEPT HOLDING THE BAT THE OPPO-SITE WAY!
IF IT'S THAT KIND OF STUFF, I KEPT RUNNING TO THIRD FIRST!
NOPE!

EI NEVER GLARED AT US OR ANY-THING...
Y-YEAH... BUT EVEN SO...

...

IT'S FINE!! NO WORRIES!!
NO MATTER WHAT, EVEN AFTER WE'D MADE AN ERROR...
YOU'D TURN AROUND ON THE MOUND AND ENCOURAGE US LOUDLY..

WHEN YOU DID THAT, YOU WERE SO COOL...

REALLY
EVEN MORE THAN ICHIRO OR MATSUI OR ANYONE...

YOU WERE...
OUR HERO.

THE DOORS FOR THE TOKYO-BOUND TRAIN
...WILL SOON BE CLOSING.
SORRY... WE COULDN'T HELP AT ALL...
BUT... YOU KNOW...

WE JUST REALLY...
WANTED TO PLAY BASEBALL WITH YOU MORE!
EH?

HEY...
EI!
WAIT A MINUTE...
GOOD LUCK!
EI, DO YOUR BEST!
WORK HARD, EI!!
GOOD LUCK!
BECAUSE WE'RE ALWAYS GOING TO BE CHEERING FOR YOU! ALWAYS!!
WHAT... THIS...
SIC

YOU IDIOTS...
WORK HARD!!
YOU'RE OUR HERO!! DO YOUR BEST!!
GO FOR IT!!
YOU NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT THIS BEFORE...
GOOD LUCK, E!!

IT'S TOO LATE...
IT'S TOO LATE, YOU IDIOTS...
WELL... WE SHOULD GO SIT DOWN...
THIS.. THIS IS..
SNIFF
THIS IS THE DRIVE YOU TALKED ABOUT, HUH...

I HAVE TO...
I DEFINITELY HAVE TO GET TO KOUSHIEN AS THEIR REPRESEN-TATIVE...
ガタン
ガタン
SSK

Ace of the Diamond

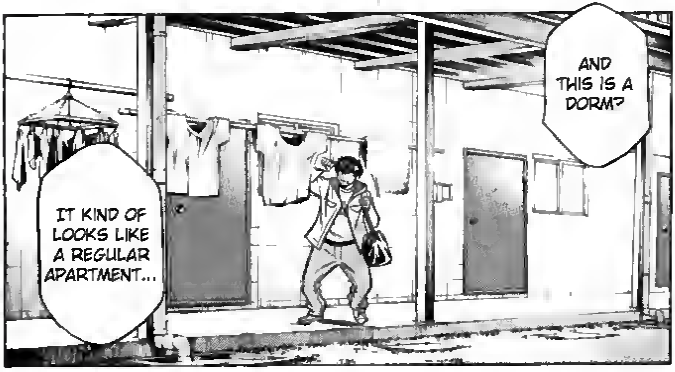
AFTER YOU UNPACK IN THE DORMITORY...
MAKE SURE YOU REST WELL.
Seidou Private High School
私立 青道高等学校
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SPRING VACATION WE PRACTICE HARD STARTING IN THE MORNING.
MY DUTIES AS A SCOUT END HERE.
HEHE, THAT KIND OF THING IS WAY ABOVE MY DRIVE!
I THINK THE CHANGE OF SCENERY MIGHT BE A BIT CONFUSING, BUT..
I BELIEVE IN MY OWN EYES.
HAHA - REALLY?
ダイヤのA

WORK HARD!
FUTURE ACE!

EH?!
FROM NOW ON, WE'RE COACH AND STUDENT...
SO IF YOU SPEAK TOO CASUALLY WITH ME, I'LL TAKE OFF POINTS!

HAHA...
HA... HA... HAHA...

第４話／いい度胸だな
Nice Guts, Huh



Sawamura Eijun
Kuramochi Youichi
Masuko Tooru

5
MY NEW LIFE WILL START...!
WHEN I OPEN THIS DOOR...
BUT I'M GOING TO DO THIS.
I'M KIND OF NERVOUS...
LET'S GO...
TO A NEW FUTURE!

!?

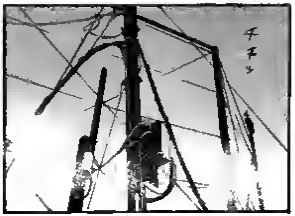
BWAHAHA!! THAT WORKED GREAT!!
GOT YOU, HUH? THEY DID THAT TO ME LAST YEAR TOO, I WAS SO SCARED I COULDN'T GET UP!!
?
?

青心寮
UWAAA
SOMETHING BURST OUT!!

WELCOME TO SEIDOU HIGH'S BASEBALL TEAM!
AHAHA!!
Kuramochi Youichi (Second Yaar)
NICE TO...
HAHA!! DON'T SWEAT IT, MAN!
DON'T YOU GET IT?
HE MADE AN ERROR YESTERDAY, SO HE'S NOT LETTING HIMSELF TALK!
Masuko Tooru (Third Year)
Nice to meet you.

EH?!
ANYWAY, TO DEEPEN OUR FRIEND-SHIP...
WE'LL HAVE A GOLF TOURNA-MENT TO WELCOME YOU!!
HAVE YOU PLAYED THIS BEFORE?
UH, YEAH, BUT.
WOO! I'M PLAYING FOR REAL, THEN!!
WHAT'S UP? HURRY UP AND COME IN!!
COME IN!!
'CUZ WE HAVE TO PRACTICE EARLY TOMORROW!
IF YOU LOSE, YOU'RE GOING TO BE OUR SLAVE FOR A YEAR!
I THOUGHT A FAMOUS SCHOOL WOULD BE ROUGHER, LIKE THE ARMY OR SOMETHING...
HAHA... GAMES...
I THOUGHT I JUST HEARD SOME-THING REALLY SCARY.
AHAHA! JUST YOUR IMAGINA-TION! JUST YOUR IMAGINA-TION!
LET'S GOLF!

GOOD MORNING, SIR!!!
GOOD MORNING, SIR!
GOOD MORNING!!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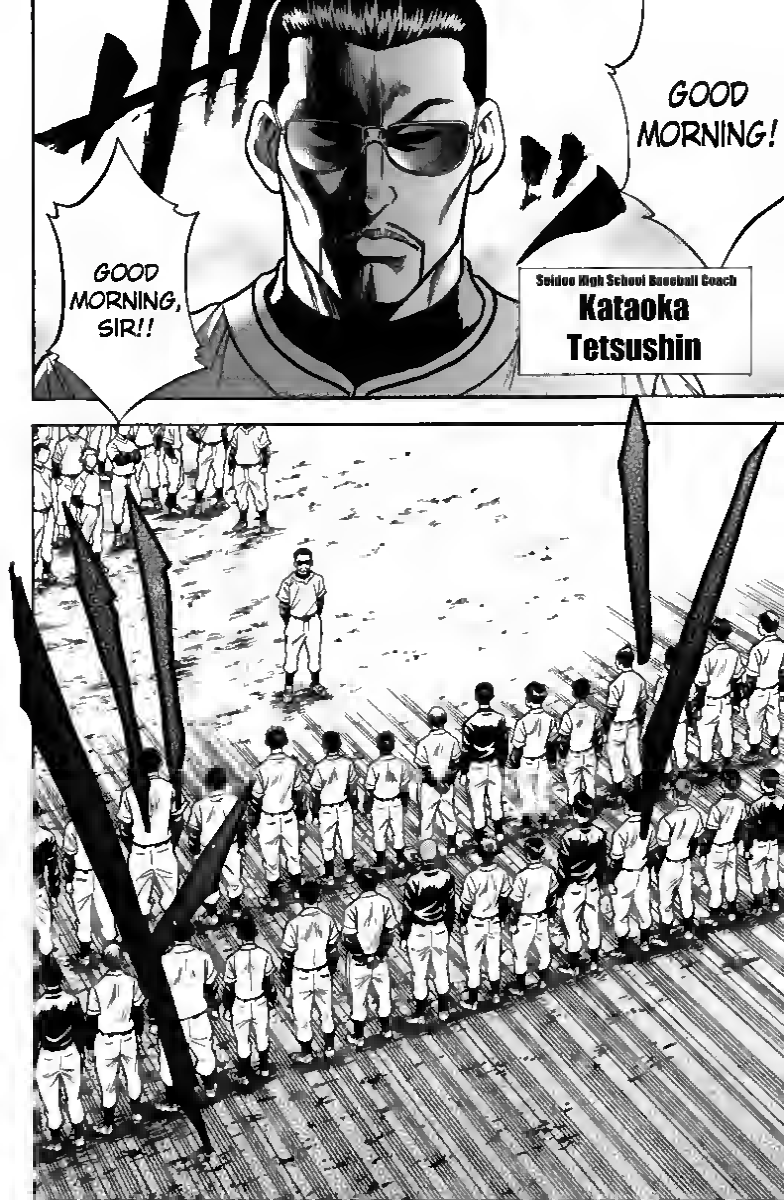
GOOD MORNING!


GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING, SIR!!
Seidoo High School Baseball Coach
Kataoka Tetsushin

IS THIS EVERYONE THAT WANTS TO JOIN THE TEAM?
YES, SIR!!
You okay leaving him?
YES, SIR!!
FIRST, PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELVES IN ORDER.
IT'S HIS OWN FAULT FOR NOT WAKING UP ON TIME!
HAHA... IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH US.
EH?!
HEY!
AH...
WHAT IS THAT KID DOING?

I SLEPT WAY TOO LONG!
WWAA

I'M TAKEMOTO ATSUSHI FROM SOUTH JUNIOR!
NICE TO MEET YOU!

NEXT!

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BE LATE ON MY FIRST DAY!
AND THOSE GUYS SHOULD HAVE WOKEN ME UP!!
I WAS PLAYING THAT STUPID GAME WITH THEM...

I'M OOSHIMA HIROSHI, FROM MIYAGAWA SHINIA!!
I HOPE TO PLAY SHORT-STOP!
I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MY DEFENSE!
OH, MAN...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET IN...
I'LL DO MY BEST, SO LET'S WORK TOGETHER!
!
ALIGH... FROM THE START...
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I WATCHED TOO MANY VIDEOS YESTERDAY...
あ゛あ゛あ
WHAT AM I DOING?!
IF I DO THIS KIND OF THING ON THE VERY FIRST DAY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO FACE MY FRIENDS BACK HOME!
ドン
OW!
...
HEHE, BUT SEEING NAGASAWA'S SMILING FACE JUST MAKES ME...

AH...

AH!! MIYUKI KAZU-
...
グッ
DON'T SCREAM LIKE THAT, YOU RETARD!
WE'LL GET CAUGHT!
S-SORRY...
HEY... WHY ARE YOU HERE?
?
EH?!
I WAS SO SURPRISED...
MEETING HIM AGAIN, HERE...
WHY? IT'S BECAUSE I DECIDED TO JOIN THE SCHOOL...
AH... I SEE.

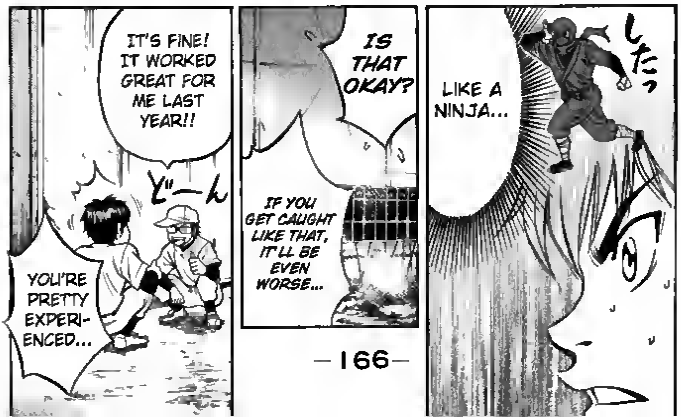
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU!!
HAHA!
TREATING THE IMPORTANT STUFF THE SAME WAY AS ALWAYS, HUH?
HAHA... SO YOU'RE LATE ON YOUR FIRST DAY?
EH?
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
WE'RE SCREWED, BEING LATE TODAY...
IF YOU SCREW UP, HE WON'T REMEMBER YOUR NAME FOR ALL THREE YEARS!
WE'VE GOT AROUND 100 PEOPLE ON THE TEAM, SO...
AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR COACH IS A REALLY SCARY GUY...
ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE LATE... HE'LL COME DOWN ON YOU SO HARD YOU'LL DIE.

...HEY, CHILL.
I'M SO SCREWED!!
SO SCREWED...
OF COURSE YOU'RE PANICKING, BUT...
I NEED TO GET ON MY KNEES AND BEG...
YEAH, YOU'RE SCREWED.
NO MATTER HOW YOU APOLOGIZE, YOU'LL STILL GET A STRIKE.
EVEN IF YOU APOLOGIZE, LATE IS LATE.
RIGHT? LOOK CLOSELY AT THE LINE...
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU SNUCK INTO THAT LINE WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?
BUT...

WHEN THE GUY AT THE END STARTS...
EVERYONE'S FOCUS IS ON HIM, RIGHT?

WHEN THE GUYS IN FRONT FINISH THEIR INTROS...
IT GOES TO THE SECOND LINE.

YOU SLIP INTO THE LINE QUICKLY AND SILENTLY, LIKE A NINJA!!
AT THAT MOMENT...


LIKE A NINJA...
したっ
IS THAT OKAY?
IF YOU GET CAUGHT LIKE THAT, IT'LL BE EVEN WORSE...
IT'S FINE! IT WORKED GREAT FOR ME LAST YEAR!!
ヒソヒソ
YOU'RE PRETTY EXPERI-ENCED...

DO YOU WANT TO BE SCREWED BECAUSE OF THIS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS?
TRUST ME!
ドクン
YEAH!
ALL RIGHT...
ドクン

ALL RIGHT... YOU'LL ONLY GET ONE CHANCE...
NEXT!
SECOND ROW!
JUST LIKE A NINJA...
NOW!
GO!
NICE DASH! YOU'VE GOT GOOD LEGS...

HEY!!
EVEN THOUGH HE'S LATE, THIS GUY'S TRYING TO SNEAK INTO THE LINE!

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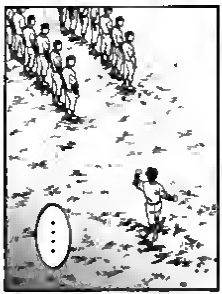
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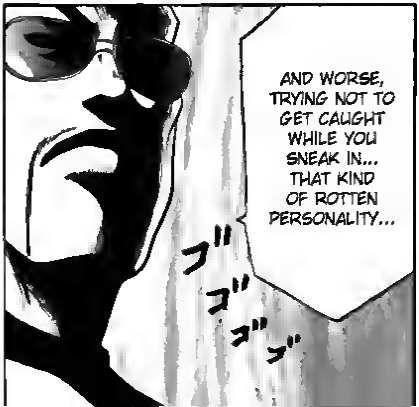
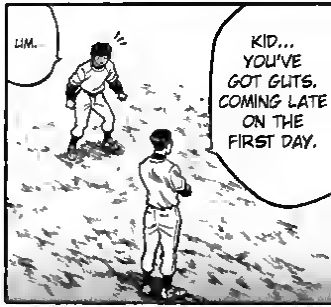
WHOA?!
ちょこ〜ん

じ〜〜っ
NO..
THAT'S...

JUST WHEN DID HE...

NO WAY... DID HE USE ME AS A DECOY TO SAVE HIMSELF?


AND WORSE, TRYING NOT TO GET CAUGHT WHILE YOU SNEAK IN... THAT KIND OF ROTTEN PERSONALITY...
ゴゴゴゴ


UM..
KID... YOU'VE GOT GUTS, COMING LATE ON THE FIRST DAY.

GO RUN UNTIL PRACTICE ENDS!
AHAHA! WHAT A FUNNY GUY!
AH... IT WAS ALL...
AS WELL AS THE INCREDIBLE IDIOT STANDING OVER THERE, WHO TRIED TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION...
THIS GUY'S UPPERCLASS ROOMMATES, TOO

YOU RUN, TOO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU..
YOU BETRAYED ME..

SHUT UP!
WE'LL BECOME GOOD BUDS RUNNING LIKE THIS!
HAHAHA! YEAH, DON'T GET MAD..

MAN..

AND SO THE CURTAIN OPENED ON MY NEW LIFE IN THE WORST WAY POSSIBLE...
I'M NEVER GOING TO BELIEVE YOU AGAIN!
I'M NOT PRAISING YOU!!
HAHAHA! THANKS!

DIRECTLY FROM HIS GRANDFATHER!
I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A SLAP LATER.

MAN... IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS...

Ace of the Diamond

Eat at least three bowls!
SECONDS!
MORE, PLEASE!
COMING UP!!

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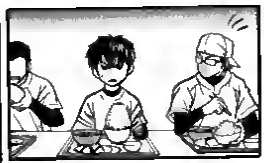
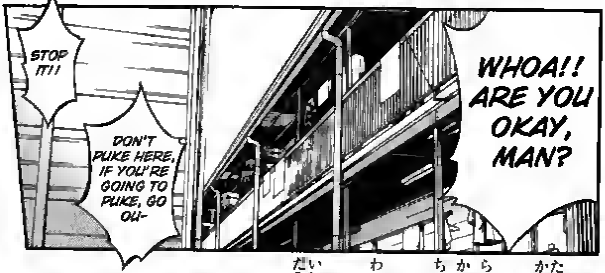
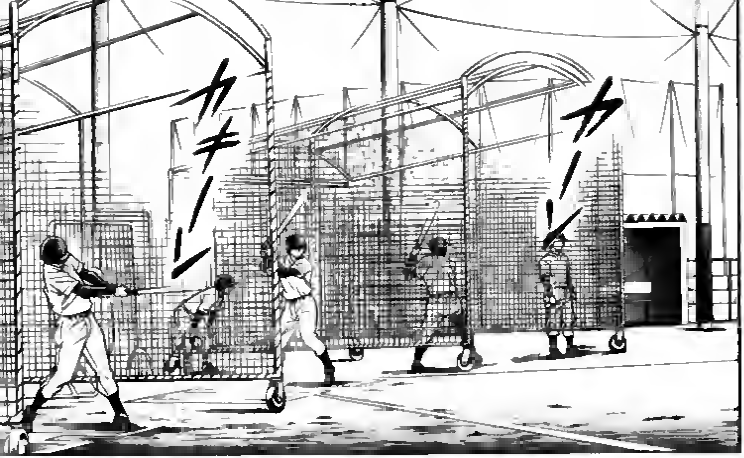
IF YOU DON'T EAT UP NOW...
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE AFTERNOON PRACTICE.



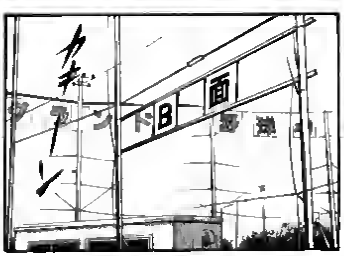
WHAT'S WRONG?



第5話／才能で語れ
Tell Me Through Your Skill


カキーン
カーン

OH...
I FEEL TERRIBLE...


カキーン
B面

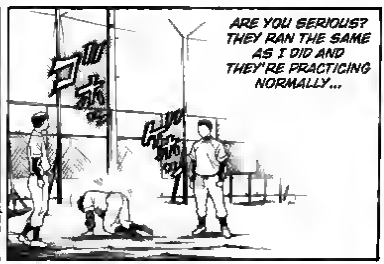
AHAHA!

RUNNING FOR THE ENTIRE MORNING PRACTICE...
AND THEN EATING THREE BOWLS OF RICE TOPPED WITH MEAT... AND MORE RICE...

WORLD FLAMINGO!!
The Guy That Ate Three Bowls

でぇ〜ん
HEY, MASUKO! MAKE SOME NOISE!
Six Bowls

HA HA HA!
CAN I SAY THAT?!
Likewise, Three Bowls


ARE YOU SERIOUS? THEY RAN THE SAME AS I DID AND THEY'RE PRACTICING NORMALLY...

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ONLY ONE OR TWO YEARS APART...
THOSE GUYS ARE MONSTERS...
THERE'S THIS MUCH DIFFERENCE IN POWER?
FIRST YEARS, GATHER UP!
AFTER THIS, WE'RE GOING TO TEST YOUR ABILITY FOR YOUR DESIRED POSITION, SO PUT ON YOUR SPIKES...
AND HEAD OVER TO THE B GROUNDS!

IT'S FINALLY STARTING!
THE CHANCE TO TEST MY SKILLS!

Hm...
... A SKILL TEST?

ALL RIGHT...

...TO TEST MYSELF...
HUH? "WHERE?"

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
うぉぼ〜い

IF YOU'RE FREE, THEN GO RUN!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO.

WHAT?!
THEY ALL CAME TO ME AND APOLO-GIZED.

HUH? WHY JUST ME?
THE OTHER GUYS ALL WENT BACK TO PRACTICE...

I DON'T APPROVE OF GUYS WHO...
COME LATE AND DON'T KNOW HOW TO APOLO-GIZE!

IT'S JUST ME...?
HA... HANG ON...

IT'S ONLY BEEN ONE DAY...
I CAME OUT TO TOKYO...

AND I'M ALREADY...

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME BACK...
EVER.
ドン
HE WON'T LISTEN TO YOU FOR A YEAR.
IT'S BECAUSE COACH IS PRETTY STUBBORN...
HAHA IT'S OVER FOR HIM, ISN'T IT?

I HAVEN'T ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING YET...
WAIT... PLEASE...

野球
WAAH
POCA
ドン

I...
I OVERSLEPT BECAUSE I WAS TOO RELAXED...
I DIDN'T INTEND TO SAY THIS, BUT...
BUT... I...
I...

I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE TO ANYONE IN THAT!!
I CAME HERE TO BE THE ACE!

ﾋﾟｸｯ
WHAT THE HELL IS WORTH-LESS?!
I'M SERIOUSLY...

HMPH WORTHLESS
!

JUST NOW...
OH, MAN, I CURSED...
NO...
UH..
!
EH?!
WAIT, WHA-

...
...EH?

WHOA!!

W-WASN'T THAT A HUNDRED-METER THROW?!?
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?!
NO WAY.. THROWING FROM HERE...
YEAH, REALLY...
HEH... THE FIRST YEARS ARE ALL FISH-EYED WITH SURPRISE...
!! !!
KID.
YOU SAID YOU'LL BE THE ACE...
フキッ
フキ
AND HE'S STILL AN ACTIVE ATHLETE.
THOUGH HE'S WHAT IN HIS 30S...?
HE REFUSED TO GO PRO AND CHOSE TO COACH FOR HIS ALMA MATER...

I DON'T WANT WORDS.
TELL ME THROUGH YOUR SKILL.
FROM HOME TO THE FENCE IS AROUND 90 METERS...
IF YOU MANAGE TO GET TO THE FENCE IN ONE LONG THROW, I'LL LET YOU JOIN PRACTICE.
REALLY?!
BUT...

IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT...
YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP ON BEING A PITCHER RIGHT NOW.

ザワ
ザワ

HASN'T HE GIVEN THE GUY THAT'S COME STRAIGHT FROM JUNIOR HIGH A PRETTY BIG HURDLE?
ヒソ
THIS IS THE COACH'S FORGIVENESS...

90 METERS IS DEFINITELY IMPOSSIBLE!
SERIOUSLY? I WANTED TO BE A PITCHER TOO, BUT...

THAT IDIOT... I TOLD HIM NOT TO SPEAK SO CASUALLY...

IF I DON'T MAKE IT TO THE FENCE...
GIVE UP ON BEING A PITCHER...?

SO THIS IS A FAMOUS SCHOOL! THIS IS NICE AND EASY FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND!
HAHA...
HAHAHA!

IT'LL BE FINE IF I THROW IT OVER THE FENCE, RIGHT?
SO... BASICALLY...
なっ!

えぇ!?
NO CLUE.
I'VE NEVER REALLY MEASURED.

BUT...
HERE.

HEY, HOW FAR IS YOUR PERSONAL RECORD?
OVER? WHAT THE...
IT'S 90 METERS JUST TO THE FENCE!

IF YOU CAN'T DO THIS KIND OF THING, THEN YOU CAN'T BE AN ACE!
AT LEAST, I FEEL LIKE THAT...
SAWAMURA EIJUN, FROM AKAGI JUNIOR HIGH!
NO WAY!
WILL NOW BE THROWING THE FIRST PITCH OF HIS HIGH SCHOOL LIFE, WHICH YOU SHOULD REMEMBER!!
GIVE UP BEING A PITCHER?

WATCH CAREFULLY...
MR. FOUR-EYES, SIR.
ぐりん
ぐりん
THIS IS ..
ダッ
THE OPENING ACT OF...
MY LEGEND!!

It's been three years since my last one... It took a while, but I finally made a baseball manga ... aah, it was really a long time
I want to publish "Hashi no Shita no BATMAN" sometime, too ..

Terajima Yuuji